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to EricNumis@aol.com

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2014?

Hello Eric

Dear Eric:

You were so busy with your auctions, I didn't want to interrupt your chain of thought with a quick question I've been wanting to ask. Now that the sales are over, unless you planning a paper money sale, I hope your life is back to a more normal speed.

My inquiry concerns the Tory counterfeit Continental Currency printed in 1776 on the HMS *Phoenix* and perhaps on the HMS *Duchess of Gordon*. Do you have any thoughts as to which bills were counterfeited in this scheme? Kenneth Scott, in the 1957 edition of his hardcover book [p. 253], identifies the \$30 note of May 10, 1775, as an issue from the *Phoenix*. I don't find that he mentions that fact in his *New York Historical Society Quarterly* article of July 1958 in which you collaborated. Did I miss something or did he change his mind? Although you illustrate that \$30 bill on p. 464 of your 5th edition and connect it to our friend Henry Dawkins, I don't see where you linked it with the *Phoenix*. Do you have an opinion about this?

Also in the *New York Historical Society Quarterly* article, pp. 235-36, a Hugh Gaine August 2, 1775 New York Water Works counterfeit from the HMS *Duchess of Gordon* is mentioned with your illustrations. But, of course, that was not a Continental Currency note.

Secondly, do you have any thoughts as to the possible source of the counterfeit fractional \$2/3 bill of February 17, 1776, with the Fugio reverse mentioned on p. 65 of your 5th edition? Could this have been a *Phoenix* or *Duchess of Gordon* product?

The reason for this burst of pent-up questions is that I've been helping a C4 colleague with his new book on Abel Buell in which he discusses New York Harbor counterfeits. My friend, Christopher McDowell, is a corporate lawyer from Cincinnati who is an avid Connecticut copper collector. He has not met you although he attended your recent New York auction.

Will this email reach you on Martha's Vineyard or St. Louis? Wherever you may be, I hope it finds that you and Evelyn are doing well and staying cool.

As for us – we are fine at the eastern end of Interstate 64. I've seen only one review of my book and that was quite favorable. I was upset at the number of minor print errors that never would have escaped Les Elam. For me it is impossible to proofread my own material. I have only one other paper in the pipeline but that will have to wait.

With kindest regards,

Phil